



FRIENDS OF

# Pine Grove Furnace News

STATE PARK Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

SPRING 2017

[www.pinegrovefriends.org](http://www.pinegrovefriends.org) • 1100 Pine Grove Road, Gardners, PA 17324 • [pinegrovefriends@gmail.com](mailto:pinegrovefriends@gmail.com)

## Earth Day Projects Improve the Park

On Earth Day in April, 100 enthusiastic volunteers turned out to remove invasive species and mulch the Laurel Lake picnic area. A few volunteers began work on improving the natural play area, but the rain and mud made post hole digging tough going!

The Friends provided hot dogs and hamburgers for the potluck lunch at the end of the morning.



*Earth Day volunteers working at the Laurel Lake picnic area*

## Woodsy Owl Has a Busy Weekend

67 enthusiastic campers volunteered at Pine Grove Furnace State Park for Woodsy Owl Weekend in May.

The volunteers of all ages planted several different species of trees behind the park office, pulled weeds around the General Store, split firewood to sell at the campground, and removed barberry and other invasive plants from various areas.

As a special treat, Woodsy Owl joined everyone for a potluck lunch on Saturday.

Thank you campers, and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



*Young campers are excited to meet Woodsy Owl in person*

## Bridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

In conjunction with Earth Day, the park hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new trail bridge on Mountain Creek Trail. Representatives of the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, the South Mountain Partnership, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the many volunteers who worked on the project attended the event. To learn more about hiking in the Laurel Lake area, you can pick up a trail brochure at the Mountain Creek Trailheads or download it from our website [www.pinegrovefriends.org](http://www.pinegrovefriends.org).



*Project partners officially open the Mountain Creek Trail bridge*

## Boy Scout Repaving Project at AT Museum

With funding provided by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Boy Scout Troop 430 from Delaware County spent a weekend repaving the walkway in front of the Appalachian Trail Museum. This was truly a team project between the Park, the Appalachian Trail Museum, the Boy Scouts, and the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park.



*Scouts from Troop 430 at work on the AT Museum walkway*

## LEADERSHIP

Andre Weltman, *Chair*  
Mary Soderberg, *Vice Chair*  
William Breen, *Treasurer*  
Diane Velozo, *Secretary*  
Sue Breen  
Josh Burleigh  
Steve Dodd  
Rob Shaw  
Brett Weiser  
Donna Weiser

## OUR MISSION

*The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park (FOPGF) exists to keep history alive and promote educational and recreational programs at the park and surrounding areas through special events and trail development while protecting the park's natural resources.*

### **Email us at:**

[pinegrovefriends@gmail.com](mailto:pinegrovefriends@gmail.com)

### **Visit us online at:**

[www.pinegrovefriends.org](http://www.pinegrovefriends.org)

### **Follow us on Facebook at:**

[Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park)

*The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park (FOPGF) was formed in August 2010 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). PPFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to PPFF are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

## **The Friends Receive DCNR Group Volunteer Award**

In March, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recognized the Friends with the Group Volunteer Award for 2016. The award ceremony during a Bureau of State Parks conference in Gettysburg was especially fun because it turned into a reunion with all of the park managers who have worked with the Friends since we organized in 2010.

We have certainly had a turnover in managers, but they have each contributed in a very positive way to improving the park. Thank you to park managers Mike Kutzmonich, Scott Hackenburg (acting), Joe Basil, Sean Benson, and Jason Zimmerman.



*Friends Vice Chair Mary Soderberg and Friends Chair Andre Weltman (center front) display the Group Volunteer Award for 2016 flanked by the current and previous park managers and John Hallas, Director, Bureau of State Parks (right)*

## **Upcoming Iron Run/Charcoal Challenge**

Our annual fundraiser trail races are on Saturday, June 10. The Charcoal Challenge 5K run (or walk) starts at 8:30 AM, and the more challenging Iron Run Half-Marathon at 7:30 AM. Online registration via [www.RunReg.com/6968](http://www.RunReg.com/6968) (Half) and [www.RunReg.com/6969](http://www.RunReg.com/6969) (5k) ends on June 5; we welcome same-day registrations on June 10 starting at 6:30 AM. Interested in volunteering instead of racing? Please email [PGFvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:PGFvolunteers@gmail.com).

Last year we had about 250 racers. *All proceeds from this pair of races are used by the Friends group to support our Park.*



*Racers receive instructions at the starting line Thank you to the many sponsors of the races*

## **—Activity Calendar 2017—**

### MAY

**19-21** Woodsy Owl weekend—volunteer activities and a picnic lunch sponsored by the Friends; sign up via the State Park office

### JUNE

**3** Daniel Tiger Day—a kids event sponsored by WITF  
**10** 7th annual Iron Run half-marathon and Charcoal Challenge 5K run/walk to benefit the Friends—sign up at [www.RunReg.com](http://www.RunReg.com); volunteers are needed

### SEPTEMBER

**30** National Public Lands Day—help to maintain trails and remove invasive plants in the park

### OCTOBER

**21-22** 9th Annual Fall Furnace Fest—join us for a 2-day family oriented weekend event with many activities including music, hay rides, food, and the Pumpkin Float/Legend of the Hairy Hand at Fuller Lake

• **For more information and updates, go to [www.pinegrovefriends.org/home/upcoming\\_events](http://www.pinegrovefriends.org/home/upcoming_events).** •